

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 6, 2005. Claims 21-40 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request consideration and acknowledgement of the information disclosure statement filed on November 8, 2004.

Double Patenting

Claims 21-38 and 40 stand rejected under the nonstatutory double patenting rejection. In response, Applicants submit that the terminal disclaimer filed herewith overcomes the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

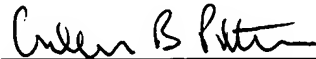
Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 39 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, Applicants submit that the claim is allowable since the rejection to the base claim is overcome as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants